

# Ranibizumab Biosimilar (ONGAVIA®)

Ophthalmology

## Introduction

Ranibizumab is a medicine that needs to be injected into the eye. It is used to treat eye conditions which affect the retina, such as wet age-related macular degeneration (wet AMD) and diabetic eye conditions.

You are currently being treated with a drug called ranibizumab (Lucentis®).



The information below is being sent to you as your treatment is changing to a biosimilar ranibizumab called Ongavia®.

## What is biosimilar ranibizumab?

Biosimilar ranibizumab is a highly similar copy of the original ranibizumab medicine. The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines a biosimilar as a medicine that is similar in terms of quality, safety, and effectiveness to the original licensed product.

Ongavia® will be used at The Royal Wolverhampton Trust.

## Consent

We must seek your consent for any procedure or treatment beforehand. Your doctor will explain the benefits, risks and alternatives where relevant before they ask for your consent. If you are unsure about any aspect of the procedure or treatment proposed please do not hesitate to ask for more information.

## What are the benefits of biosimilars?

Ongavia® is available at a lower cost to the NHS. This will allow the NHS to care for more patients.

**The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.**

- Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111
- Keep the environment clean and tidy
- Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.

## Are there any risks?

Serious complications affecting the eye itself are rare, fewer than two patients out of every 100 experience problems.

Possible complications include:

- Retinal detachment
- Bleeding
- Cataract (clouding of the lens of the eye)
- Increased pressure in the eye
- Infection in the eye. Although rare it can be very serious and it is very important to pick it up early

Tiny amounts of the drug can get into the blood supply and because of the way the drug works, it has been suggested that there might be a slight increase in risk of strokes and heart attacks. In studies so far, the rate has been low, three out of every 100 patients, which is similar to the rate expected in this age group. It is possible that the rate might be higher for people who are already at higher risk.

## Is biosimilar ranibizumab safe and effective?

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), the body in the UK who regulate medicines, ensures that biosimilar medicines pass the same rigorous tests for quality, biologic activity and effectiveness as the original medicines.

Please be assured that we would not offer this alternative unless it was just as safe and effective as your current treatment. Other hospitals in the country have successfully switched their patients to a Ongavia®.

All versions of ranibizumab can cause similar side effects. If you experience any problems with your treatment, report it promptly to your treating ophthalmology clinician, nurse or pharmacist.

## What does treatment with biosimilar ranibizumab mean for you?

You will continue to attend hospital as usual and receive the injection into the eye as you usually do. You can expect the same results.

## Next Steps

If you have no concerns about receiving Ongavia® and consent to receiving this treatment, you will be switched to Ongavia®.

If you change your mind, please let us know and we will happily discuss it with you further.

## Where can I get more information?

We are here to help, please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff, or contact us if you need any further information or advice.

### **Clinic Coordinator:**

01902 695845

Between: 10:00am to 12:00pm and 2:00pm to 4:00pm,  
Monday to Friday

(Our co-ordinator is not always available to take your calls, so please leave me a message and someone will get back to you)

### **Eye Referral Unit:**

01902 695805

**Eye Casualty:**

01902 307999 ext: 84486, 84488, 84489

Between: 8:30am to 6:30pm, Monday to Friday

8:30am to 5:00pm, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays

**Out of hours:**

Please attend the main Emergency Department or contact NHS 111 on telephone number 111.

## Further advice

The above information will be discussed with you at your appointment.

You can access a video that explains more about Ongavia® at the following link:

[https://www.tevauk.com/our-medicines/ongavia\\_ranibizumab/](https://www.tevauk.com/our-medicines/ongavia_ranibizumab/)

## English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

## Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

## Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

## Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

## Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

## Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。